Jackie to Manchester: Get Well Soon

By ARTHUR GREENSPAN
New York Post Correspondent

Middletown, Conn., Dec. 27—Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy and Sen. Robert F. Kennedy have sent telegrams to hospitalized author William Manchester expressing distress at his illness.

Mrs. Kennedy's message was sent from New York several hours before she departed for a Caribbean vacation. She said she was "distressed" to learn of the author's hospitalization with pneumonia here, and told him "how much I hope" he will recover soon.

MRS. JACQUELINE KENNEDY

The Senator wired his get-well message from Sun Valley, Idaho, where he is on a skiing vacation with his family.

Both messages were telephoned to Middlesex Memorial Hospital here by Western Union late yesterday. The text of the Senator's message was not available, but from sources close to the Kennedy family it was learned Mrs. Kennedy's telegram said:

"Please know how distressed I am to know that you are sick, and how much I hope you will be better soon."

The 44-year-old Manchester, author of "The Death of a President," emerged over the week-end from a self-imposed retreat into which he disappeared on returning from Europe two weeks ago.

Now he is the patient in Room 517, with an eyepatch over his right eye and continuous treatment with antibiotics to attest to a Christmas week-end which couldn't have been less like a holiday.

Gets Psychiatric Help

Dr. F. Irwin Tracey, the Manchester family physician for several years, pictured the writer today as tormented and deeply troubled by the lawsuit, and receiving psychiatric help.

But Manchester is recovering physicially from the pneumonia which for a time had placed him on the critical list, the doctor said, and needs mainly rest for a complete recovery.

Manchester, the doctor said, has been depressed ever since he arrived from Europe.

"Reaction" to Illness

He's not psychotic, he doesn't have a psychosis," Tracey said. "It is not serious as far as the residual effects are concerned. There is no history in the Manchester family. Therefore there is nothing permanent to worry about."

He said the writer had seen a psychitarist, Dr. Asher L. Baker, twice since his return, the second time yesterday in the hospital.

He indicated this was because of Manchester's depression due in part to his illness.

"After viral infection you sometimes have a reactive depression," he said "If people were not aware of this reaction they might not understand some of the own actions and would have no way of accounting for them."

Asked if calling in a psychiatrist was common in such cases, Tracey replied: "It's common if you can afford it."

Tracey said Manchester is now "on the mend." He is receiving two anti-depressant drugs. He was taken off the critical list today, ate breakfast and was up briefly.

Some of his troubles have been due to inability to rest, the physician said.

"He hasn't been able to sleep at night There have been many phone calls at all hours of the night. Harrassment was a secondary factor.

"Primarily he needs rest. When he can rest and feels secure, he'll be all right. You know what this thning is all about? The lawsuit. As soon as it is settled, he'll have security.

"Mrs. Manchester is fed up. How long can this go on? The spotlight they're in? After it is all over, I'll suggest he get away for awhile."

Injures His Eye

The writer has radio and television in his hospital room from which all visitors are barred by private nurses. He is unable to read because of an eye injury.

Baker confirmed that Manchester was suffering from "a reactive depression." He said this can be due to a number of things — "great mental strain, serious illness, loss of a loved one."

He described the author as "rational—in full command of his senses." He said he had treated him for fatigue before he left for Europe earlier this year and hospitalized him for a time at Elmcrest Manor, in neary Portland, Conn. He emphasized that the current depression was most likely due to his physical illness.

His current illness began Friday night as he was helping trim the Christmas tree in his home on High St. A pine needle scratched the cornea of his right eye. On Christmas Eve he began to feel weak and on Sunday evening had chills and fever. Tracey ordered him to the hospital. His temperature was 104.

The author's wife, Julia, has not yet been to the hospital because she, too, is confined to her bed on Tracey's orders.

Visitors Are Barred

Manchester will be hospitalized for at least a week and perhaps 10 days, normal with this kind of illness. And while here he will remain in virtual isolation. The hospital information card has written on it, underlined in red, "No visitors except wife."

The telephone in Manchester's room has been disconnected.

Tracey has ordered Manchester not to talk about the book; not to do any work on it.

The world's press has been jamming the hospital switchboard for word on Manchester's condition. Hundreds of calls, many from Europe, have deluged the hospital telephone operators.

WILLIAM MANCHESTER

A Surprise Move By Book Publisher

By WILLIAM GREAVES and WILLIAM H. RUDY

In a move which caught Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy's lawyer by surprise, Harper & Row today asked for and was granted a hearing Thursday in the suit over William Manchester's book, "Death of a President."

Postponement of court action had been expected until Manchester, seriously ill in Middletown, Conn., hospital, had recovered. Mrs. Kennedy's suit for a temporary injunction against publication of the material is against both the publishers and Manchester.

But while Manchester's attorney succeeded today in getting his case postponed until Jan. 16, Harper & Row pushed ahead and urged a prompt hearing of their case.

"I don't quite understand it, but I won't comment," said Simon H. Rifkind, Mrs. Kennedy's attorney.

Representatives of Mrs. Kennedy, Manchester and Harper & Row conferred for more than an hour today with Supreme Court Justice Streit in his chambers. Then all went to his third floor court room.

The request for a Thursday hearing was made by Edward F. Greenbaum, representing the publishing firm which plans to bring out the hardcover edition of the book in April.

"We deeply regret Mr. Manchester's illness," the attorney said. "However, in behalf of Harper & Row, since Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy is seeking a temporary injuction against us, we have agreed with Judge Rifkind to adjourn the matter until Thursday."

"I am ready now," Rifkind said, "but I have no choice with regard to Manchester in view of his severe illness. However, the adjournment should be conditioned on the maintenence of the status kuo during this period."

Rifkind was asked out of court if he planned to continue to negotiate with the publishing firm.

"I am in no position to engage in negotiations," he said. "I have to prepare my argument."

Until now, Rifkind said, the talks between the two sides had been "exploratory."

"Problems have been mapped out, but thesolutions have not yet been found," he said. "All we have done is list the problems before us."

He said the problem of what to do with possible publication of unabridged texts abroad had not yet been taken up with Harper, because Look magazine had given assurances they would take care of that.

Mrs. Kennedy has reached an agreement with Look, her attorneys said, permitting serialization of the book with the ex-

Continued on Page 14

Were You Late?

Snow and freezing weather was partly to blame for lengthy subway delays and one injury today, according to the Transit Authority.

An IRT train bound for Flushing's Main St. terminal developed mechanical trouble at 8:30 a.m. and stalled in the Vernon and Jackson Avs. station in Long Island City. It snarled operating schedules in both directions on the ueens line for more than an hour.

Earlier, at 8:22, a southbound F train of the IND developed door trouble and stalled in the station at Lexington Av. and 53d St. for 18 minutes.

On the BMT in Queens, a train bound for the 168th St. terminal in Jamaica encountered switch trouble in the 111th St. station in Richmond Hill at 7:22, and was held up for 29 minutes. The TA blamed the snow and cold.

In the IRT's Long Island City tieup, police said a passenger's foot was crushed between cars as a following train tried to push the stalled one. They said cars of the pushing train somehow became uncoupled.

The injured man was identified as William Heitzner, 61, of 878 West End Av. He suffered a leg injury at 9:30 a.m. when he fell between the third and fourth cars of the pushing train. He is in St. John's Hospital, Long Island City.